

# **\*\*ATTENTION\*\***

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## PLANTS FOR WILDLIFE IN WESTERN WASHINGTON

The plants listed on the following pages provide food for western Washington birds. The list is divided into coniferous (evergreen) trees, deciduous trees, broadleaved evergreen trees, deciduous shrubs and groundcovers, and broadleaved evergreen shrubs and groundcovers. In order to help determine the suitability of a particular plant for your yard, we have included the maximum height, sun tolerances, and water tolerances for each plant.

The number of western Washington birds that are known to eat the fruit and/or seeds of each plant is indicated in the column marked "Number of Birds". It is important to remember that many birds eat insects rather than seeds or fruits. Many of these birds search for insects among the bark, twigs, and leaves of trees and shrubs. Therefore, the number of birds potentially benefiting from plants in the landscape is greater than the number shown on the list. Also, if a plant does not offer fruits or seeds to birds, it may still provide shelter or a place for birds to raise their young.

*The key to wildlife management is habitat management.* The most important part of habitat for native wildlife in urban areas is **vegetation**. An abundance of trees and shrubs in your yard should be the first consideration in turning your yard into a sanctuary for desirable wildlife species. At the same time, a properly planned landscape design will provide aesthetic benefits to you as well.

# PLANTS FOR WILDLIFE

## CONIFEROUS TREES

NAME	MAX. HEIGHT	SUN <sup>1</sup>				WATER <sup>2</sup>			NUMBER OF BIRDS	NOTES.....
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3		
Silver Fir <i>Abies amabilis</i>	>60		x				x		6	Spirelike crown is attractive. Slower growing in shade, and may not exceed 60 feet at lower elevations. Best in cool, deep, moist soil.
White Fir <i>Abies concolor</i>	>60		x				x		6	Can survive in very poor soils. Slow growth when young. Cool, deep, moist soils are best. Also sold as Christmas trees.
Grand Fir <i>Abies grandis</i>	>60		x				x		6	Needles are two-ranked (in one plane). Best in deep, moist alluvial soils. Also sold as Christmas trees.
Subalpine Fir <i>Abies lasiocarpa</i>	>60		x				x		6	Spirelike crown. Cool, moist soils are best. Slow growing. Prostrate forms in unprotected areas at timberline.
Noble Fir <i>Abies procera</i>	>60		x				x		6	Seeds not abundant and produced irregularly. Full sun with cool, deep, moist soil is best. Also sold as Christmas trees.
Note: Prostrate or contorted forms of firs are available. These aberrant novelties have little wildlife value. All firs do best in full sun and cool, moist, well-drained, acid soils. They are generally intolerant of air pollution.										
Port Orford Cedar <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	>60		x				x		11	Lacy, fernlike foliage. Many varieties of different sizes available. Columnar forms used as screens, windbreaks.
Common Juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i>	6-15	x					x	x	18	Very hardy. Black, berry-like fruit persists on plant. Other low-growing varieties have reduced wildlife values, but the native species may be difficult to find in nurseries. Dioecious, slow-growing.
Rocky Mountain Juniper <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	15-30	x					x	x	18	Drought and saltspray tolerant. Common in drier, exposed habitats. Dioecious, slow-growing.
Eastern Redcedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	30-60	x					x	x	18	Tolerates many soil conditions, including poor, dry soil; best in sunny, airy, moist site. Dioecious. Many varieties available.
Western Larch <i>Larix occidentalis</i>	>60	x					x		7	Needles are dropped each winter - attractive fall foliage. Only one typical urban bird species eats the seeds.

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Engelmann Spruce <i>Picea engelmannii</i>	>60		x				x		13	Best in deep, rich, loamy, moist soils. Similar to Sitka Spruce in habit.
Colorado Blue Spruce <i>Picea pungens</i> 'Glaucæ'	>60		x				x		13	Blue-green foliage is attractive. The native Sitka and Engelmann spruces may be good alternatives.
Sitka Spruce <i>Picea sitchensis</i>	>60			x		x	x		13	Does best in foggy, moist atmosphere.
Jack Pine <i>Pinus banksiana</i>	>60		x				x	x	17	Native to Great Lakes region. Pioneer tree in poor soils. Good windbreak in extremes of cold temperatures.
Shore Pine <i>Pinus contorta contorta</i>	15-30		x			x	x	x	17	Short, contorted trunk and dense, irregular crown. Tolerant of soil conditions. Serotinous cones (open only after exposure to fire), so wildlife value is reduced.
Lodgepole Pine <i>Pinus contorta latifolia</i>	>60		x				x		19	Cones are serotinous, so wildlife value is reduced.
Western White Pine <i>Pinus monticola</i>	>60		x				x		21	Susceptible to white pine blister rust.
Ponderosa Pine <i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	>60			x			x	x	21	Most common on east slopes of Cascades. Will grow on sterile sites and in a variety of soils.
Red Pine <i>Pinus resinosa</i>	>60			x			x		20	Does well on sterile mineral soils and sandy soil. Also called Norway Pine. Wildlife values not as great as other pines.
Pitch Pine <i>Pinus rigida</i>	30-60		x				x	x	19	Very hardy; tolerates poor, dry, sandy soil; best in sandy loam. Great diversity of form and habit in extremes of environment. Native to northeastern U.S.
Eastern White Pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	>60			x			x		21	Good specimen tree, and good in mass in parks and estates. Native to eastern U.S.
Scotch Pine <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	>60			x			x	x	6	Reddish bark is attractive, but hard, prolific cones litter ground.

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Douglas-fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	>80		x				x		2	Most common of our native conifers in western Washington. Important component of old-growth forests.
English Yew <i>Taxus baccata</i>	30-60		x				x		4	Dioecious. Used for undergrowth, hedges, screens. Slow growing. Foliage and seeds are toxic to humans. Native to Europe & Asia.
Eastern Arborvitae <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	30-60	x					x		5	Not for dry soil or heavy snow/ice. Tolerates pruning; often used as a tall hedge. Many varieties available.
Western Red Cedar <i>Thuja plicata</i>	>60		x			x	x		5	Important PNW species. Generally found in moist flats and slopes, and along water margins. Shade tolerant; attractive bark.
Mountain Hemlock <i>Tsuga mertensiana</i>	>60		x			x	x		7	Excellent for natural landscapes. Slow growth, choice form. Best in groups of 3-5 of differing heights. Blends well with salal and huckleberry.
Western Hemlock <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	>60		x				x		7	Graceful, pyramidal tree. Protect from drying wind and sun.

## DECIDUOUS TREES

Vine Maple <i>Acer circinatum</i>	15-30		x			x	x		8	Best suited to woodland plantings with ferns and conifers. Excellent fall color.
Bigleaf Maple <i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	>80	x				x	x		9	Best suited for large plantings. Stumps will produce sprouts resulting in a dense mass of stems. Fast growing.
Japanese Maple <i>Acer palmatum</i>	15-30		x			x	x		9	Many uses: small lawns, borders, bonsai, woodland plantings. Slow growth.
Red Maple, Scarlet Maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	30-60	x				x	x		9	Good specimen tree. Does not tolerate heavy pollution. Native to eastern U.S. Moderate to fast growth.

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Sugar Maple <i>Acer saccharum</i>	>60		x				x		9	Best in larger areas; not for small or polluted spaces. Good fall color. Much better alternative than Silver Maple ( <i>Acer saccharinum</i> ) which is weak-wooded.
Horsechestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	>60		x				x		2	Large shade tree, best in estate plantings. Showy white flowers attract hummingbirds.
Red Alder <i>Alnus rubra</i>	>60	x				x	x		6	Tolerates brackish soil. Good for regenerating disturbed sites; adds nitrogen to soil. Very common native tree.
Downy Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	15-30		x				x		21	Or deciduous shrub. Brief but showy spring flowers, excellent fall color. Best in woodland edge, along water edge, or in a shrub border. Shadblow Serviceberry is similar.
River Birch, Red Birch <i>Betula nigra</i>	>60	x				x	x		12	Most often seen on streambanks and moist places. Good for sites where moist & dry conditions alternate. Native to eastern U.S.
Paper Birch <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	>60	x					x		12	Hardy, fast growing. Smooth white bark (on older trees) is very attractive. Good fall color. Seeds especially valued by goldfinches, siskins, juncos.
European White Birch <i>Betula pendula</i>	30-60	x				x	x		12	White bark and autumn foliage are attractive. Avoid "Cutleaf" variety because of abundant aphids.
Common Hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	30-60	x					x		17	Good tree for difficult locations; tolerates dry soil, wind, and pollution.
Western Dogwood <i>Cornus nuttallii</i>	30-60			x		x	x		25	Intolerant of frequent watering & fertilizing. Protect young bark from sun and mechanical damage. Effective against background of darker conifers.
Cockspur Hawthorn <i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	15-30	x					x		10	Dense crown provides excellent shelter. Spring flowers, fall/winter fruit are attractive. A good choice for a small space.
American Sweetgum <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	>60	x					x		12	Needs a large area for root development. Not tolerant of pollution. Corky ridges on bark are attractive. Good fall color.

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Tuliptree, Yellow Poplar <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	>60		x				x		7	Weak-wooded; not suitable for small gardens or near roadways and houses. Native to eastern U.S.
Crabapple <i>Malus</i> spp.	15-30	x					x		20	Japanese Flowering Crabapple ( <i>Malus floribunda</i> ) is one of the best; other species and varieties available. Caution: many are sterile and produce no fruit.
White Mulberry <i>Morus alba</i>	30-60		x				x	x	19	Hardy, fast growing, good for windbreaks and shade. Fruit can be messy, so plant away from patios or walkways. Red mulberry ( <i>Morus rubra</i> ) is similar.
Black Gum, Tupelo <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	30-60		x				x		16	Fiery red fall color lasts for weeks. Effective against soft-textured evergreens.
Bitter Cherry <i>Prunus emarginata</i>	30-60		x				x		28	Many other species & varieties available, usually smaller in stature. Avoid sterile specimens.
White Oak <i>Quercus alba</i>	>60		x				x		17	Majestic tree for large areas. Slow growing. Native to eastern U.S.
Canyon Live Oak <i>Quercus chrysolepis</i>	30-60	x						x	17	Tolerates poor, dry, rocky soil. Native to southwest U.S.
Oregon White Oak <i>Quercus garryana</i>	>60	x					x	x	17	Drier soils are best for this species.
Pin Oak <i>Quercus palustris</i>	>60	x					x		17	Lower branches droop in young trees and do not prune well; it needs space.
Red Oak <i>Quercus rubra</i>	>60	x					x		17	Transplants easily. Native to eastern U.S.
Cascara Buckthorn <i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>	30-40		x				x		13	Native understory tree in a variety of soils. Does not do well in highly urbanized areas. Bark is cathartic.
Smooth Sumac <i>Rhus glabra</i>	6-15	x						x	20	Also in shrub form. Spreads by shallow roots. Fruit stays long on plant, not highly valued by wildlife.

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Staghorn Sumac <i>Rhus typhina</i>	15-25	x						x	20	Suckers profusely. Form is attractive in proper setting. Fruit stays late, not highly valued by wildlife.
European Mountain Ash <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	30-60		x				x		7	Soft-textured foliage and fruit clusters are attractive. Fruit stays on plant into winter.
American Elm <i>Ulmus americana</i>	>60		x				x		12	Grand specimen, but seriously threatened by Dutch elm disease; varieties of other species are preferable.
Smoothleaf Elm <i>Ulmus carpinifolia</i>	>60	x					x		12	The variety 'Urban Elm' is best suited to heavily urbanized areas.

## BROADLEAVED EVERGREEN TREES

NAME	MAX. HEIGHT	SUN <sup>1</sup>				WATER <sup>2</sup>			NUMBER OF BIRDS	NOTES.....
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3		
Pacific Madrone <i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	>60	x						x	3	Choice form, especially against an ocean view. Constant litter from peeling bark and leaves can be a problem.
English Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	30-60		x				x		15	Fruit is not readily consumed, but it stays on late into winter. Many varieties are available. Sexes are on separate plants; only females will produce fruit.

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		1	2	3	4	1	2	3		
Saskatoon Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	6-15		x				x		21	Widespread native in the PNW. Good choice for a medium-sized shrub.
Scrub Birch, Bog Birch <i>Betula glandulosa</i>	6-15	x				x			9	Found in wetlands of the Pacific Northwest.
Bunchberry <i>Cornus canadensis</i>	<1			x	x	x	x		18	Deciduous groundcover with attractive white "flowers". Rich, moist, acid soil needed. Will spread. Best in native garden.
Red Osier Dogwood <i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	6-16	x				x	x		24	Valuable for habitat reclamation, especially in moist areas. Red branches are attractive all year.
Trumpet Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera ciliosa</i>	---	x					x		15	Groundcover or climbing vine. Has tubular red flowers in clusters.
Winter Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>	6-15	x					x		15	Good hedge plant; holds foliage late. Very fragrant flowers. Native to China.
Twinberry <i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	6-15	x					x		15	Found in moist areas of the PNW. Dense foliage.
Indian Plum, Osage Berry <i>Osmorhiza cerasiformis</i>	6-15		x				x		6	Good for woodland garden, native plantings in open spaces. One of the first native plants to flower in the spring.
Red-flowering Currant <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	6-15		x				x		10	Several other species and varieties available. Excellent native plant for landscaping. Attractive spring flowers.
Wild Rose <i>Rosa</i> spp.	3-8		x				x	x	12	Several species and varieties available. Nootka, multiflora, and rugosa roses are most common. Hips are persistent into winter.
Thimbleberry <i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	3-6		x			x	x		25	Unkept appearance is best in wild, natural garden.
Strawberry Bramble <i>Rubus pedatus</i>	<1			x			x		20	Good groundcover in shaded, natural landscape.

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Salmonberry <i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	6-15		x			x	x		25	Best in natural garden.
Red Elderberry <i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	6-15	x				x	x		29	Prune to avoid leggy appearance. Best in natural garden. Blue elderberry is similar. Raw berries may be toxic to humans.
Snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	3-6		x				x		10	Will spread to form a thicket. White fruit persists into winter.
Red Huckleberry <i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>	6-15			x		x	x		13	Best in moist, coniferous woodland setting. Often grows on top of tree stumps. Has bright, red, semi-translucent berries.
High-bush Cranberry <i>Viburnum opulus</i>	6-15		x				x		11	Also called European cranberry. Fruit stays on plant into winter. Some smaller varieties of <i>Viburnum</i> do not bear fruit.
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### SOME SELECTED REFERENCES FOR PLANTS AND LANDSCAPING

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